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Health Care Task Force

February 14, 2011

VIA E-MAIL

Committee and stakeholders:

Let me outline my vision for the next couple of days in committee. First, while the direction has been clear, the actual roadmap remains foggy. You are going to see 5 RS's on the agenda dealing with changes in the two bills we have been working on. Attached you will also find the proposed changes to those two bills. My intention, after consideration of all the RSs before us, is to start Jason Hancock at page 1 of S1069. Since this bill is available to the public, he could go through it, section by section, and explain the bills. I will also ask him to note sections where changes are made. We should get the actual bills back Wednesday so we can switch our focus to the newer legislation. If this message is not clear, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John W. Goedde
Chairman, Senate Education Committee

JWG/scp
/encl.

Changes to S1068

- Reinstated the requirement that certificated employees be given a minimum of 10 days to sign and return the employment contract. (pg. 3, lines 14-15)
- Allow performance evaluations of administrative personnel to be conducted by the district superintendent's designee. (pg. 4, lines 15-16)
- Combine Category A & B contracts under the provisions of Category B (to be called Category A, however) by requiring the furnishing of written reasons for non-renewal. Category C (2-year) contracts are now called Category B, but retain the stated provisions of Category C. (many references on pages 6-8 and 12)
- Require that a performance evaluation must be performed before the board can make a decision not to renew the contract of an employee on a Category A or B contract, except in the case of a reduction in force. (pg. 6, line 25 and pg. 7, line 22)
- Clarify that the board may terminate the second year of a Category B (2-year) contract as part of a reduction in force. (pg. 7, line 16)
- Rewrite the "No private cause of action..." sentence at the bottom of page 7 to provide greater clarity.
- Clarify that the extensive (and often expensive) formal process required for non-renewal of a grandfathered renewable (tenure) contract does not apply in the event of a reduction in force. (pg. 10, line 29)
- Reduce the principal's ability to block the transfer to their building of an employee who is currently employed by the district, in the event that the transfer is due to shifting student population levels between the schools of the district. In such cases, the principal is to be given a choice of at least two current employees for each opening, unless there is only one current employee who is qualified. (pg. 15, Section 10)

Changes to S1069

- Remove the “ratchet down” feature of fractional ADA that allowed a district to pay less than two-thirds of the fraction to non-contracted, online course providers, in certain cases. This language was of concern to IDLA, and could have allowed an online course provider to drive away competition by operating Idaho as a “loss leader” for a period of time. (pg. 28, lines 28-39)
- Clarify that the definition of an online course applies to Sections 33-1002A and 33-1627, Idaho Code. (pg. 29, line 12)
- Clarify that blended courses that provide both online and in-person instruction still meet the definition of an online course, provided that a majority of the instruction is provided online. (pg. 29, line 16)
- Boosts future increases to the minimum teacher salary by requiring that after the base and minimum salaries have reached the amounts that they were set at in FY 2009 (before any budget cuts), the minimum salary will increase by 1.5% for every 1.0% increase that the Legislature funds in the base salary. (pg. 37, line 15)
- Reduce the number of online courses required for high school graduation from six (6) to four (4). This brings the online course requirement down to half of the eight (8) courses that were required in the original proposal. The courses can still be taken any time during grades 9-12. (pg. 47, line 16)
- Technical correction to add a reference to public charter schools to the current reference to school districts. (pg.47, line 17)
- Remove the authority granted by this legislation to school districts and public charter schools to verify that an online course meets state content standards. That authority is still granted by the legislation to the State Department of Education and IDLA. (pg. 47, lines 33-34)
- Give school districts and public charter schools the flexibility to determine when students are given mobile computing devices, rather than requiring that they be given to all 9th graders. (pg. 47, line 47)
- Allow school districts and public charter schools in which high school does not begin until 10th grade to begin the 1-to-1 mobile computing device program in 10th grade, rather than 9th grade. (pg. 47, line 48)
- Allow school districts and public charter schools that already have a 1-to-1 ratio of mobile computing devices to receive instead an allocation equal to the amount that would have been expended by the state to purchase the devices, to be used at local discretion. (pg. 47, line 48)
- Require the State Board of Education to develop digital citizenship standards for students to whom the online course requirements apply. (pg. 48, line 23)
- Delete the section that provides for mobile computing devices to become the property of the student upon graduation. (pg. 48, Section 26)